16. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein an additional dimension is taken into account in the transformation.

17. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein an additional transformation is carried out along a time dimension.

18. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein a side information item containing the order of transformations is generated by the decision unit.

19. The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising carrying out mirroring on a 45-degree before either transformation, so that the horizontal transformation follows from the vertical transformation.

20. The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising carrying out mirroring on a 45-degree before either transformation, so that the vertical transformation follows from the horizontal transformation.

21. The method as claimed in claim 18, for use in a coder for compression of picture data.

22. The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the side information item is used in a decoder for decompression of the picture area.

23. The method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising determining modes of operation of at least one of the coder and the decoder according to one of an MPEG standard and an H.26x standard.

24. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the transformation is one of a DCT transformation and an IDCT transformation which is an inverse thereof.

25. A system for transforming a picture area, comprising: